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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6137

BILL NUMBER: HB 1404

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 30, 2002

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Drug Treatment Programs.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Smith V

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill allows a person who is committed to the Department of Correction to receive drug addiction treatment.

Effective Date: July 1, 2003.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill would increase the number of offenders who would likely seek drug treatment by giving a committed offenders the right to participate in a drug abuse treatment program. This would likely expand the waiting list of offenders who wish to enter drug treatment in Department of Correction (DOC) facilities.

The added costs to the Department of Correction are difficult to estimate because at least three factors are not specified by this bill: First, no standards are specified concerning the type of treatment that DOC would be obliged to provide. Second, the type of caseload that substance abuse counselors would be assigned is not specified. Finally, there is no specification concerning how long an offender would have to remain on a waiting list before being provided drug treatment services. Consequently, DOC would have a wide amount of discretion concerning how many resources should be used to implement this bill.

The following provides some additional information on current staff, offenders served, and the waiting list of offenders by security level.

Current Staff: Currently, DOC provides substance abuse treatment and counseling for offenders who have a scheduled release date within two years. Existing staff assigned by DOC include both merit and contract positions.

	Number of Positions		
	<u>Authorized</u>	<u>Filled*</u>	<u>Vacant</u>
Substance Abuse Counselors III	44	41	3
Substance Abuse Counselors IV	83	76	7
*As of November, 2002			

The salary of a substance abuse counselor at the PAT III and PAT IV level ranges from \$23,800 to \$27,111.

Offenders Served and Waiting List: For FY 2002, 10,767 offenders were served. The average number of new offenders per month is 645.

The number of offenders on a waiting list in September 2002 was 2,363 (this includes offenders on parole) while the number of offenders in DOC who were scheduled to be released in the next two years was 9,095.

Facility Level	Offenders on Waiting List
Level 1	286
Level 2	1,398
Level 3	645
Level 4	4
Parole	<u>30</u>
Total	<u><u>2,363</u></u>

The length of time that offenders spend in treatment depends on the security level of the facility in which the offender is housed. Prisons with maximum security require the longest time for program completion because of mandatory lockdowns when counselors might have little or no contact with offenders. In these facilities, the offender generally completes the program in 12 to 14 months. For offenders in lower security facilities, program completion may take between four and six months.

If offenders with more than two years remaining on their earliest possible release date participate, then continual followup services would be required to assist the offender to not relapse.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Correction.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Department of Correction.

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